

ASSESSMENT OF ECOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF INVESTMENTS UNDER THE PRIORITY AXIS ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES OF THE ROP DV 2014-2020

INFORMATION BROCHURE



The main objective of the study was to analyse and evaluate the impact of environmental and cultural investments in the scope of ecology, society and economics in the Dolnośląskie Voivodeship.

Research methods



Desk research
analysis



CAWI/CATI
interviews



Individual
in-depth
interviews




Expert
panel

Focus
group
interview



Case
study

A hand is holding a tablet computer. The screen shows a bar chart with several bars of varying heights. A yellow square is overlaid on the chart, highlighting a specific bar. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a person's face and other parts of the tablet interface. The overall image has a modern, professional feel with a white circular area containing the text.

Accuracy and usefulness of the support were assessed positively. Support under 4 PA of the ROP DV 2014-2020 accurately responded to diagnosed needs and problems of environmental and cultural spheres of the voivodeship. Considerably broad scope of supported activities significantly influenced support's level of usefulness. Water supply coverage in cities and villages was increased, sewage treatment plants were modernized to meet the current environmental protection requirements while ensuring the adequate level of environmental protection and the access to natural resources and maintaining sustainable development. Moreover, another achieved effects included improved flood protection and retention reservoirs built to improve climatic conditions and the natural landscape. Support for historic buildings (especially numerous and significant in the analysed region) contributed to an increase in the tourist attractiveness of the region.

Relatively the most significant difficulty in the implementation of projects concerned delays resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, with the problem concerning predominantly Measures 4.1, 4.2 and 4.5. However, according to results of the research, these difficulties resulted merely in insignificant shifts in deadlines for implementation, without causing barriers for completing projects.

According to results of the research, beneficiaries achieved planned effects, contributing to a significant impact of the intervention on natural, social and economic spheres.

Basing on the research it was also concluded that without the intervention the majority of investments would not have been implemented, with the implementation of merely those projects that are crucial from the point of view of safety (therefore significantly reduced projects).

According to conducted analysis, supported investments will have a more considerable durability than it is required for this type of projects.

As for the end of 2021:

216 KM

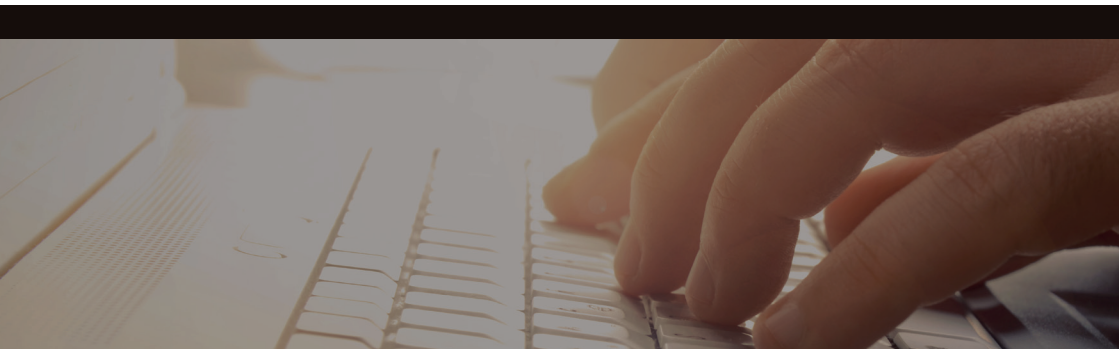
of constructed
sanitary
sewage
system

456 KM

of created
tourist trails

58

of historical
monuments
covered by
support



CONCLUSION

Support under PA 4 of the ROP DV 2014-2020 accurately responded to current needs of the region, and considerably broad scope of supported activities significantly influenced support's level of usefulness. Despite numerous supported measures, needs are still identified in this respect - particularly in the area of water and sewage management (further confirmed by the inability to meet provisions of the sewage directive), however, it is necessary to take into consideration the support planned in the future at the national level.

Beneficiaries were the most interested in applying for support under projects related to cultural heritage (Measure 4.3). Moreover, effects of this type of projects are to the most considerable extent "socially-oriented" and noticeable by inhabitants.

RECOMMENDATION

For the development of the future draft of the Programme it is necessary to include the continuation of support in the 2021-2027 perspective in the following scopes: support in the area of water and sewage management (sewage collection and treatment infrastructure within agglomerations from 2 to 15 thousands ENI, indicated in the National Programme for Municipal Waste Water Treatment and investments in the water supply infrastructure as an element complementing the project), support in the area of environmental protection (including the area of natural resources protection, active nature protection, protection of biodiversity, reduction of anthropopressure or construction of green infrastructure), and support for projects related to the development/modernisation of tourist routes.

In the future version of the Programme it is necessary to include the continuation of support in the 2021-2027 perspective, particularly for cultural heritage.

CONCLUSION

Set objectives of projects were achieved, with the COVID-19 pandemic not having a significant influence in this respect - even though it resulted in delays in project implementation, these barriers were not significant in the context of achieving project objectives (partly due to contracting a significant part of projects before 2020 and to the type of implemented investments).

Identified needs included the need to raise environmental awareness among the inhabitants, including activities addressed to the youngest age groups. Such approach would contribute to the development of pro-ecological attitudes, also among children. As part of implemented projects, surveyed beneficiaries indicated the occurrence of unexpected positive effects of the support, therefore it is recommended to consider this type of activity as an additional measure under future investments.

RECOMMENDATION

A need to introduce additional changes and facilitations for beneficiaries regarding the impact of the pandemic was not identified - objectives of implemented projects were achieved, moreover, indicator values do not determine the introduction of any changes to their target values planned to be achieved by the end of 2023.

Developing the draft of the next Programme it is necessary to include support for environmental education and information activities. This support should be included as accompanying activities, the inclusion of which will be rewarded during the evaluation of submitted applications for co-financing.